United Nations S/PV.4300

Security Council

Fifty-sixth year

Provisional

4300th meeting

Wednesday, 21 March 2001, 1.20 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Zlenko	(Ukraine)
Members:	Bangladesh	Mr. Amin
	China	Mr. Wang Donghua
	Colombia	Ms. Lloreda
	France	Mr. Teixeira da Silva
	Ireland	Mr. Kavanagh
	Jamaica	Mr. Ward
	Mali	Mr. Toure
	Mauritius	Mr. Neewoor
	Norway	Mr. Kolby
	Russian Federation	Mr. Granovsky
	Singapore	Mr. Mantaha
	Tunisia	Mr. Ben Youssef
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Cutler
	United States of America	Mr. Minton

Agenda

The situation in Georgia

Letter dated 17 March 2001 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2001/242).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

01-29818 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 1.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Georgia

Letter dated 17 March 2001 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2001/242)

The President: In accordance with the decision taken at the 4299th meeting, I invite the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia, His Excellency Mr. Irakli Menagarishvili, to take a seat at the Council table.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Menagarishvili (Georgia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the successful holding of the third meeting on confidence-building measures between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides in Yalta on 15 and 16 March 2001 and the resumption of dialogue between them, and notes the documents signed there (S/2001/242). It hopes that action flowing from the Yalta meeting will lead to a narrowing of the positions of the two sides and stimulate further constructive dialogue aimed at achieving a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict, including a settlement of the political status of Abkhazia within the State of Georgia and other key issues. The Council underlines the contribution that confidence-building measures can bring to the peace process and commends the efforts by the Government of Ukraine in ensuring the success of the Yalta Meeting.

"The Security Council reaffirms its support for the efforts by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to enhance contacts at all levels between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, in close cooperation with the Russian Federation, in its capacity as facilitator, the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"The Security Council encourages the two sides to engage with renewed commitment in the peace process. The Council notes the stated willingness of the two sides to ensure favourable conditions for the continuation of the peace process, their stated commitment to the non-use of force and their stated determination to intensify efforts in order to create the necessary climate for the voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees in secure and dignified conditions. The Council also notes the important contribution that the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States continue to make in stabilizing the situation in the zone of conflict.

"The Security Council underlines the unacceptability of the holding of self-styled local elections in Abkhazia, Georgia, on 10 March 2001, which it deems illegitimate and unhelpful. The organization of these elections represents an additional obstacle to the attempts to reach a comprehensive settlement of the conflict based on international law.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of negotiations on the core political questions of the conflict. In this regard, it looks forward to the briefing to be provided by the Secretary-General on the progress of the political settlement, including on the status of the draft paper his Special Representative intends to submit to the two sides, as referred to in paragraph 16 of its resolution 1339 (2001) of 31 January 2001.

"The Security Council will remain actively seized of the matter and reaffirms its commitment to advancing the peace process."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2001/9.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.